

1 **Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.**

1 **Please add the following new claims 5-24**

a' 1 **5. (new)** A method employed in a distributed database system that includes a
2 plurality of database systems for responding to a request received in a database
3 system of the plurality,
4 the method comprising the steps performed during execution of the request in the
5 database system of:

6 determining that the request is preferably executed at least in part in another
7 database system of the plurality; and
8 redirecting the execution of at least the part of the request to the other database
9 system.

1 **6. (new)** The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the request includes one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a
3 plurality thereof in the distributed database system; and

4 the step of determining whether the request is preferably executed in the other
5 database system determines that an object required for execution of the request is
6 lacking in the database system.

1 **7. (new)** The method set forth in claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

2 placing the request in a form required for execution in the database system;

3 modifying the form when it has been determined that the request is preferably
4 executed at least in part in another database system; and

5 in the step of redirecting, the modified form is redirected.

1 **8. (new)** The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:

2 the request includes an SQL statement;

3 the form required for execution is a cursor; and

4 in the step of modifying the form, the cursor is marked for redirection.

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1 **9. (new)** The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:

2 the request includes a call to a procedure object; and

3 in the step of modifying the form, the call is rewritten in the form required for

4 execution as a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

1 **10. (new)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor

3 performs the method set forth in claim 5.

1 **11. (new)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor

3 performs the method set forth in claim 6.

1 **12. (new)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor

3 performs the method set forth in claim 7.

1 **13. (new)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor

3 performs the method set forth in claim 8.

1 **14. (new)** A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor
3 performs the method set forth in claim 9.

a' 1 **15. (new)** Apparatus that redirects at least a part of a request received in a database
2 system belonging to a distributed database system to another database system in the
3 distributed database system,

4 the apparatus comprising:

5 a request analyzer in the database system that determines that the request is
6 preferably executed at least in part in the other database system; and

7 a redirector in the database system that redirects execution of at least the part
8 of the request to the other database system.

1 **16. (new)** The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:

2 the request analyzer places the request in a form required for execution in the
3 database system and causes the form to be modified when the request is preferably
4 executed at least in part in the other database system; and

5 the redirector redirects the modified form.

1 **17. (new)** The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2 the request includes an SQL statement;

3 the request analyzer includes the SQL statement in a cursor that the request
4 analyzer causes to be marked for redirection; and

5 the redirector redirects the marked cursor.

1 **18. (new)** The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:

- 2 the request includes a call to a procedure object; and
3 the redirector causes the call to be rewritten in a form required for execution as
4 a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

a' 1 ⁶ 19 (new) The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:

- 2 the request includes one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a
3 plurality thereof in the distributed database system and
4 the request analyzer determines that an object required for execution of the
5 request is lacking in the database system.

1 ¹⁰ 20. (new) A data storage device, characterized in that:

- 2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an apparatus as
3 set forth in claim 15.

1 ¹¹ 21. (new) A data storage device, characterized in that:

- 2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an apparatus
3 as set forth in claim 16.

1 ¹² 22. (new) A data storage device, characterized in that:

- 2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an apparatus
3 as set forth in claim 17.

1 ¹³ 23. (new) A data storage device, characterized in that:

- 2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an apparatus
3 as set forth in claim 18.

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24. (new) A data storage device, characterized in that:

the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an apparatus as set forth in claim 19.
